

What's Coming Up:

Janet Macunovich and Steven Nikkila answer your growing concerns
Issue #165, November 30, 2011

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Winter decorations, wild or simple.
Both are fun and free with clippings
from your own yard.
Pages 6, 7, 8, & 13.



Spring plants early to rise? Tuck them in with fluffy mulch!

There's **snow coming** and my newly planted (3 weeks ago) **oriental lilies are coming up**. What should I do? - R.B. -

They're just breaking the surface, right -- their noses just poking up? That's not unusual and **probably not a problem**.

Although we think of winter as a do-nothing season that's not the perennial plant's perspective. (Check out how briefly one pauses for winter in the life cycle diagram on page 2). Many of them keep growing right until the ground freezes, working their ground-hugging basal leaves and using the energy to build root, or using stored energy to grow roots and position their new shoots for an early spring break-through.

The fall growth of lilies, trillium, bulbous iris and others is hidden from us, but they go one better, putting energy into developing root and furthering next spring's shoot every day they're not iced in! Usually, the emerging shoot feels cold as its tip nears the surface, and halts that growth just below ground. Then, the tip rests there, photosynthesizing in that little bit of light that filters through the soil crumbs. That light energy helps the bulb keep growing roots.



Above: You know those daffs that leap out of the ground in early spring -- sometimes as early as late winter? Their noses -- and lilies, trillium and many others -- were sitting just below ground level waiting that chance, all winter. Like precocious species that may break the surface in fall, only their leaf tips are at risk. In either case, a handful of mulch is enough to trap some of the earth's warmth and keep them safe.

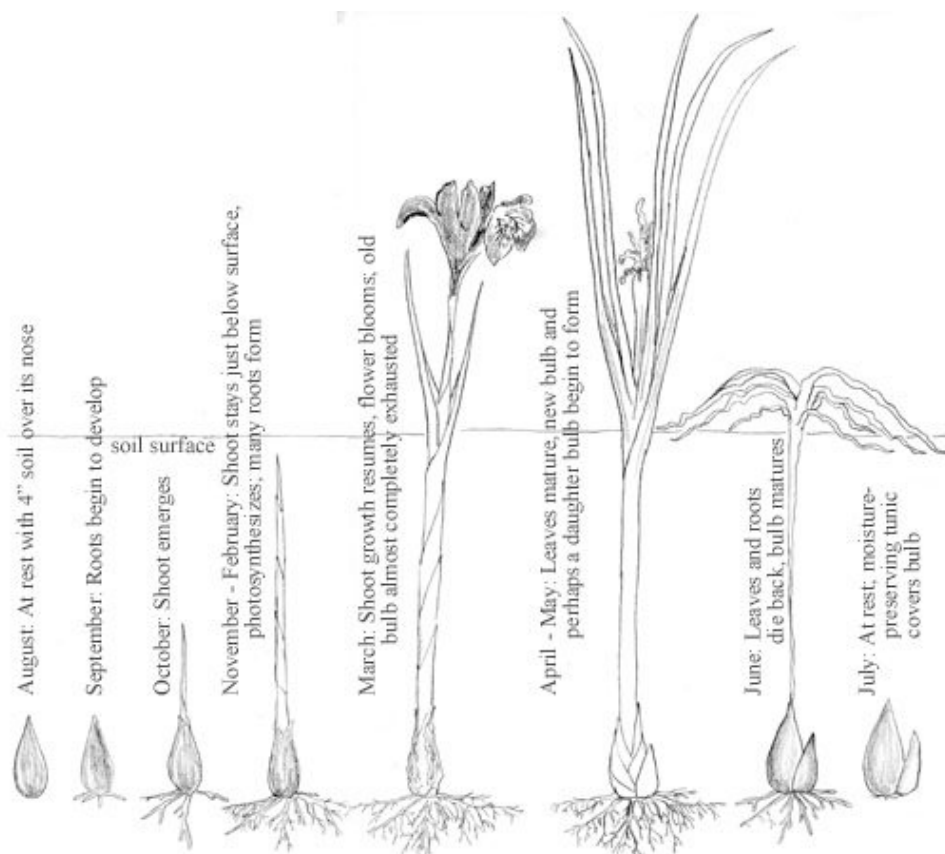
Sometimes the tip does break through. If it does, all that may be lost are tips of the top leaves, those which are compressed protectively above the actual growing point. And even those tips may survive if they're right near the ground or surrounded by insulating mulch, getting the benefit of the ground warmth.

You can hedge your bets by throwing a deep heap of leaves over any exposed new growth. The snow will do you that favor, if it comes. It's great insulation.

Precocious perennials

Many perennials give their gardeners a scare when they grow new leaves, emerge from underground in late fall, or open some of their flowers. Not to worry. They may lose leaf tips (emerging bulbs), waste

a few flowers (forsythia, azalea), or die back again to their crown (daisies, bearded irises) but they probably realize a net gain, given the energy they can harness in a few days in the fall sun.



Fall is growing time!

Some plants have made leafing out in fall a regular part of their life cycle. Oriental poppies (*Papaver orientale*), grape hyacinth (*Muscari* species) and some crocuses come up green in fall, then resume in spring to make more leaves and a flower stalk.

Above: The life cycle of bulbous iris (*Iris reticulata*) is typical of many bulb-forming perennials including lilies (*Lilium*), and also of woodland ephemerals. Notice how many roots develop after the shoot emerges even though it's below ground. That's the result of solar energy captured by the green tip of the shoot. It's not so dark as we think, an inch into a crumbly soil! Also note the horizontal line across the middle of the diagram -- ground level. The iris bulb, about an inch tall overall, is planted with four inches of soil over its nose. Planted less deep, it's more likely to erupt in fall than otherwise.



Lots of animals know that spring is just under the surface of the soil. This deer, caught in the act of snacking on some lobelia, may come back in winter to paw through insulating snow to ground that's diggable even in winter. She'll scrape through to the growing points of trillium, hosta and other plants. They're fresh vegetables in a season of want!
Photo ©2009 Sheryl Kammer

Jade summered out well, slumped after coming back in

I discovered mold on many of my jade plant's lower leaves about two weeks ago. I have been picking off several new moldy leaves each day. I haven't watered it since it came in the house in

early October and the soil is very dry. Because of all the rain we had in the fall I was covering it with a thin plastic table cloth when it rained, but the soil was pretty wet when I brought it in. It is on a stand in front of a sliding door which is on the east side of the house. Would some artificial light help? Could I use a light bulb on an unshaded floor lamp? How about fungicide? - D -

Below: Olive was glad when the jade returned...



Light will always help a jade (*Crassula* species). Use a fluorescent fixture or bulb. If an incandescent bulb is all you have, use it, but it won't be so much help as a fluorescent bulb since it has to be further away to avoid cooking the plant.

Plants and artificial light: Make it cozy!

Light's energy level drops drastically with distance -- move a plant two feet from a light source and it loses 75% of the energy.

About the moldy leaves: It's a great that you noticed them right away, and are picking them off as you see them. If they're still

pretty firm and the white coating is one you can rub off, that's probably powdery mildew. (Photo, right.) It should be enough to remove infected leaves and give the plant **better light and air** on its remaining leaves -- thinning its foliage is one way to do that.

If the moldy leaves are more gray than white, and soft or mushy, the plant may have a *Botrytis* infection. Gray mold / *Botrytis* is more serious than mildew so you may lose more of the plant before it's beaten. However, it's an ailment that responds to the same controls -- cleanliness and giving the plant the light energy it needs to regroup.



About fungicide: We wouldn't. It might help in the mildew or *Botrytis* battle but using it will not excuse you from doing all the rest. All it can do is prevent new infection. It won't cure what's already within the plant's stems and leaves. That's what you're seeing -- "mold" that is the mature, reproductive face of a fungus that's been in residence for some time.

Plants staying healthy: Thinner during winter

Don't worry about some leaf loss when you bring plants indoors for winter. Many plants thin themselves by half, or more, as an adjustment to indoor's lower light. Some do this drastically, some more gradually.

More plants die from overwatering than being dry

Especially succulents.

So we understand your concern about a jade being too wet outdoors. However, next year don't cover it in plastic. As water moves into the root zone from adjacent soil -- something you can't stop -- the earth begins to exhale humid air. Then, plastic can trap lots of moisture around the foliage. Unless you're there to remove the sheet the minute the rain stops, fungus will have more hours of dampness and thus more chance to take hold than it would have otherwise.

It's enough to **make sure** the ground or potting mix around the roots **drains perfectly**. Even though the plants can survive long dry spells, they do handle rain in the wild. Our jades -- our own and those of clients -- are out in the weather all summer, planted in coarse builder's sand in pots with clear drain holes, or in that same sand. in-ground. in spots where we're sure excess water can fall quickly through and below the garden soil.



Fat leaves tell tales!

When you see a succulent -- a plant with leaves that can swell and hold water -- you might think of deserts and, "Keep this plant dry." That's only part right. Leaves that can store water indicate a native climate where there is water available at some time during the year, and a plant that weathers dry times by storing water while it can.

Watering a succulent plant during dormancy

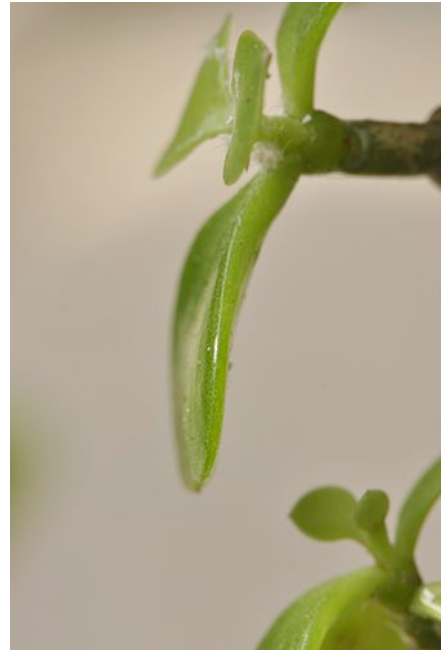
In winter, when short days cause jades to rest, don't water until the individual leaves begin to get thin. If the leaves look plump or feel firm, hold off watering even if the soil is really dry. Neither of the leaves (at right, and on page 4) are thin enough to be thirsty. When its time comes and it's *really* thin, a dry leaf may even show wrinkles. Develop a feel for that condition, in order to give the roots the dry, airy rest that keeps them healthy.

Our jades' root balls are bone dry in winter more often than they're moist. Yet the leaves remain turgid -- plump -- so we hold off watering. Those inside our house may need water only twice in all of winter, yet resume growth with gusto in March's growing light. Those wintering in a friend's dark, cool root cellar will probably go the whole winter without water.

Right: It's simple to judge a leaf's turgidity by feel. A little tougher to learn by eye. Yet you should be able to tell that the leaf on the previous page is more plump, while the one here is thinner. Neither one is thin enough to need water, however. That's where touch matters, to know when a thin leaf has also lost its firm feel.

We dropped in on friends with jades, looking for mildew we could photograph for you. We found it on a few leaves of a densely-leaved jade sitting on a shelf in a conservatory against the solid back wall. "Oh, look at you!" Its gardener said, "You were fine while it was summer but now that it's winter you can't handle that stuffy shelf, can you?" Then she moved the plant from its place against the wall, out to a place where light and air could flow all around it.

You may smile... but take a look. Arrows point to the jades. Would you think that back shelf was sub-prime territory? Maybe not, when viewed from the front (below, left). Yet look at it from the side (right). The big monkey paws in the foreground are cutting off air and light to plants already living a one-sided existence.



My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view. - H. Fred Dale -

Wishing to cut winter greens, worried about breaking laws

There is a lot of discussion as to whether **winterberry is protected by law or not**. The best I could find on line sounded like it was protected from rapacious harvesting and benefitting monetarily from selling it. I also understood that you may cut your own growing winterberry as you want. Can you help us through this muddle on winterberry fact or fiction? – T.K. –

You have it right if you're in Michigan, and you're on the right track in most other places.

You can cut all you want of winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*, also known as Michigan holly) **on your own property**, and you can cut from others' plants if you have (written) permission to do so. But in any other place or situation that tempts you to cut, check first. As you say, these are means to prevent rapacious harvesting:

- **Michigan's Christmas Greens act*** prohibits harvesting of plant matter from public lands and requires you to show written permission to do so on private property not your own.
- In **Washington State****, cutting on public land **is regulated** and when the State determines an area can be harvested for evergreen boughs, it auctions the cutting rights.
- In **Montana**, **rules vary** by area. For instance, inquire in the office in the Flathead National Forest*** and receive a guide that explains, for evergreen boughs, "No permit or fee required for up to 100 lbs. green weight (except for Pacific Yew which has a 50 lb limit). Amounts greater than 100 lbs (or 50 lbs. for Pacific Yew) requires a commercial-use permit."



A person's own evergreens can almost certainly afford this many branches. Cut bits of white pine, blue spruce, juniper and arborvitae on a fine November day. They'll last all winter.



*<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/%28S%28g2d44345e4oci045k2qhmjqf%29%29/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=mcl-451-1994-iii-2-4-miscellaneous-topics-529&queryid=1141783>

**http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/NewBusinessVentures/Pages/ps_bough_sales_auctions.aspx

***www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5340310.pdf

So where we showed you winterberry in issue #164, along a highway on property of unknown ownership, we could admire it but not cut it.

Knowing what's endangered

Of course other laws, including endangered species acts, protect some plants to the extent that a person is in violation if he/she molests the plant even on his/her own property. Winterberry is on Iowa's endangered list, and Arkansas' threatened list.

You can get **information about protection status** for any native plant from the USDA's plant database. Enter the plant name and then scroll on its profile page to "Threatened and Endangered Information."

<http://plants.usda.gov>

Stupidity or Gall?

Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) root has proven medical use, is in great demand, and is difficult to grow outside the wild. It's been clear for over a hundred years* that careful management is required to keep people from digging this plant to extinction. Michigan and Maine are two States that prohibit cutting or digging the plant in the wild and require sellers to have proof their plants were artificially cultivated. Federal land use agencies and other public land management bureaus monitor wild ginseng traffic, and grant permits to harvest ginseng in certain seasons and places. Permits require those who harvest to follow conservation measures such as sowing fresh seed at the time and place mature plants are removed.

*http://www.fws.gov/international/DMA_DSA/CITES/plants/findings_01.html

Illegal ginseng digging is prosecuted every year. Diggers commonly claim ignorance of laws even while in possession of hundreds of roots and well aware of their great economic value.

<http://www.fws.gov/southeast/news/2007/r07-114.html>

Right: Aside from the question of legality, there's the economic issue. Why pay for greens when you have them in your foundation yews and arb hedge? Come *Garden by Janet & Steven* (pages 15 - 16) and see how much can be removed and not be missed!

Aiming for Answers: We score hits regarding stubborn yews...

There are no sure bets in dealing with living things, but every situation we face helps us learn more possibilities -- especially when we share with each other what we've observed. So we're always glad to hear how your experience tracks with ours and 'what happened next.'

I was interested in the yew pruning conversation in the last newsletter. I also pruned two yews way back this past spring to see if they would



grow back. It took a *long* time to see any new growth. I was ready to dig them out but they were in a spot in our backyard that wasn't readily seen. So I left them. Finally one started growing and now doesn't look too bad but the other one only half-grew new shoots so it looks kind of funky. I'll decide what to do with them next season. I was telling people (at Master Gardener booths when I volunteer to answer questions) that you can cut back yews and they will return but now I say '*sometimes* they will resprout.' Those darn plants don't follow the rules! - L.D. -

...and leaf collecting

I'm stealing leaves, too. It's easy since nobody else on my street uses their leaves, just rakes them into a pile in the street. Duh. -B.C. -

As we did last year, we hauled almost 100 bags of maple (and some oak) leaves from our neighbors' curbsides to haul in our mini-van back to our yard. We dumped them 8" thick on the raspberry patch after the canes were cut down, in several large compost piles, around new trees and shrubs, and in areas where we're trying to encourage new perennials and ground covers on our clay soil on our back hill, where 30 mature dead ashes and elms were removed a couple of years ago.

Our hill is becoming fertile and very receptive to wildflowers self-seeding.



...I returned the empty leaf bags to those who wanted them back or to others who still had a lot of leaves to rake.

One caution, though....I opened up a bag of leaves that had been sitting for a while in damp weather, and inhaled a cloud of mold spores and got a cough and raspy voice soon after...



A mangey looking silvermound artemisia! Save it until spring pruning time with a few sprigs of juniper and cranberry viburnum berries.

We heap leaves and hedged-down foot-high eulalia (*Miscanthus*) grasses around our roses, and top those heaps with compost. We also tied up the "All Summer Beauty" hydrangea



with a spiral of twine, wound some 2' wide chicken wire fencing around it to 4' high, and dumped in leaves for winter protection... - L.N. -

Tip cuttings: Growing on from what people are saying this week

So much goes on in email exchanges between newsletters! We wish we could include it all. Here are excerpts:

Nature's leaf pile, revealed

In issue #164 we wondered:

...people have told us, "We were getting ready to rake leaves, and had the usual thick mat of them. Then there was a windstorm and overnight they were all just *gone!*" We keep waiting to hear from people who were on the receiving end of the wind's raking fit...

We had an early snowstorm following that raking wind, so this first theory sounded good: The last time we had an autumn where all the leaves blew away overnight, we had a huge amount of snow. I told anyone who would listen that they were all blown north to the Arctic and were converted to snow. It was maybe 6 to 8 years ago. I remember being flabbergasted that all of the leaves were gone by morning. - S.M. -

But then:

I know where all those leaves went - to my mom's yard! And even one leaf on her property really bothers her! I'm having problems convincing her that that is God's fertilizer. Those 90 year old ladies don't listen (or hear). It is interesting to see the wind swirl leaves down the street and then turn into her driveway, apparently just to annoy her! - L -

'Do not fertilize in winter' does apply to orchids

Does the 'do not fertilize house plants' suggestion also apply to *Cattleya* orchids? I have always fertilized them "weakly weekly" as the orchid societies suggest. I summer mine outdoors and have lots of flowers forming right now. They do not get extra light, but are in south facing windows. - C.D. -

You are missing four words from that good rule. It goes "Weakly weekly *while in active growth.*" Orchids require a rest period of drier, cooler time and most take it in winter. Then they're "on hold", even if a flower stalk has made its appearance. Fertilizer then does no good so it's a wasted resource and can accumulate to burn and weaken roots. It may also cause long, weak growth in leaves or leaf tip dieback.



However, no one tells Ma Nature these rules. Where orchids grow wild, attached to tree limbs and rocks, they get their nutrients from organic sources such as bird droppings. Perhaps guano decays into soluble form more slowly during the orchids' resting period, since that rest tends to coincide with a dry, cool season. That might keep the nutrient flow in check, but we doubt the birds wait!

Orchid grower's formula

Ron Ciesinski of Taylor Orchids in Monroe, Michigan grows thousands of orchids and is just about to quit fertilizing most of them until March. "They don't grow in winter, even under lights. When they start growing again, usually in March, I use a high nitrogen fertilizer. Then once the new leaves are formed I switch to one with lower nitrogen, such as 6-30-30 and keep that up into fall."



Orchids are pretty, and fertilizer does help bloom size and color. But they can't use it in winter, when the plants are leafy but dormant -- even those with flower stalks coming.

All over the world, gardeners hear the call in Fall

The cranes - les grues. You hear them long before you see them... They fly over us in the Dordogne (France)... We are on a major fly way. They fly from Norway-Finland to Spain and Africa.

They announce winter... They generally circle above us, seeking thermals that will boost them higher...

I rushed outside and managed a photo or two... They are superb! - G.C. -



We can plant to suit the needs of the birds and other wildlife that find a haven and a habitat on our home ground, and we can understand that to do so is a moral dictate, not a personal whim.

- Allen Lacy *The Inviting Garden* -

Scrabbling in the garden, word play

We gardeners earn admiring murmurs when we display our garden's produce in vases and on plates. Why don't we stir up a bit of that admiration by tossing a nifty horticultural term or two on the table during the next Scrabble game? For instance:

Coriaceous: adjective; COR ee AY shus; leathery in look or feel; *Some orchid species are known for their **coriaceous** leaves.*

Epiphyte: noun; EHP uh fight; a plant that grows non-parasitically upon another plant, or on an object, obtaining its moisture and nutrients from air, rain and accumulated debris; adjective, epiphytic; *The well-known **epiphytes** of the tropics are orchids, ferns and bromeliads while in the temperate regions most **epiphytes** are mosses, lichens and liverworts.*

Grex: noun; GREX; a collective term for varieties of a plant that have the same hybrid origin; (also, as a verb, to grumble or complain shrilly); *The orchids that come from crosses between species of Brassavola, Cattleya and Laelia are the x Brassaeliocattleya **grex**. Even great taxonomists have been known to **grex** about the difficulty of keeping order among the 20,000 species of the Orchid family.*



Lithophyte: noun; LITH oh fight; a plant that grows on rock, a plant with a hard stony structure, or a plant-like organism that fits either description; adjective, lithophytic; *Some orchids such as the tiny one here are **lithophytes**, growing well on rock faces.*

Expert Gardener Afield: Report from Birmingham Botanical Gardens

The world is full of great gardens and even the widest ranging traveler can't see them all. Here's a chance to **peek through expert eyes** at a place you may have overlooked or not yet reached.

Dear Janet & Steven,

On the way back north we stopped off to see the Birmingham Botanical Gardens* in Birmingham, Alabama. We ...were just looking to take a travel break and stretch our legs... we (found) a very amazing place containing one of

the best Japanese Gardens we have seen in the U.S. ...something to add to your to do list if you haven't seen it.



The Torii, a traditional kind of gate that would lead into a Shinto shrine



Right: This is Toshin-an**, built by an 8th-generation Miyadaiku (temple and shrine builder)



Left: The stroll garden is truly a great place to stretch your legs
Below: This pavilion houses the bonsai collection



Finally, the meditation garden

Dennis & Carole Groh

Dennis and Carole Groh specialize in conifers, Japanese maples and fall color in their Michigan garden.

*<http://www.bbgardens.org>

**http://urasenkebirmingham.org/tea_house/index.html

This week in our garden

Grow with us! This week:

Consider borrowing a wetsuit because our regular waders are never going to be warm enough for the work we still have to do on the pond. Why do pumps always go at the worst time?! Why are we so attached to all the fish and frogs and birds that we feel compelled to keep the water aerified and an open space for drinking!?

Repeat after us: Freezing is a quick way to go. We don't want to recant or regret regarding plants we let go. Some of these tender plants and **houseplants have to go**. They multiply or get too big and we just can't keep them any more. There aren't enough greenhouses in the world to accept all the fall orphans we gardeners have. It's plant-icide but there's no getting around it.

Keep clipping, and decorating with what we cut. It's great at this time of year -- we bag so little and everywhere we go, people smile and take from us what would be "yard waste" in another season.

Input, input, **input to our website**. It's taking a little longer than we thought it would, but it's looking very good and we're very excited about it. We know you'll like it -- but we're keeping the door closed until we have all the important pieces out where you can use them. No 'under construction' signs! Thank you, to those of you who impressed this on us.

Continue our **SPECIAL OFFER** regarding

Garden by Janet and Steven hands-on sessions this winter. We're scheduling these free, hands-on sessions to **clean and sharpen tools, and prune**. This year, **locations depend on you!**

If you think you might join us to prune this winter, or bring your tools to learn to sharpen, **let us know where you are so we can choose the most desirable locations!** We love to travel, so don't hold back. Give us reason to venture further afield!

Send an email to JMaxGarden@aol.com, subject line: I want to Garden by Janet & Steven. In the email tell us what towns are in your home range, and what topics you're interested in.

There's more about *Garden by Janet and Steven* sessions on pages 15 and 16.



We sprayed a touch of gold paint on the Korean feather reed grass we used here with sea oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*), Alaska falsecypress and cranberrybush *Viburnum* (*V. trilobum*) berries.

Green thumbs up to **utility company forestry departments** who let property owners know in advance when easement clearance crews will be working in the area. When we get that notice, we contact the utility so we can meet with a crew supervisor to discuss the plans in advance. We have been able to reach good compromises. We both agree the easement must be clear but sometimes only we have the facts about the potential growth of specific plants -- the key to deciding how far they should be pruned.

Green thumbs down to those **annoying plant labels** that stand out in winter like miniature headstones and forgotten price tags. We push them down into the ground before the soil freezes, or remove them.

Who's Janet? Who's Steven?

A woman fascinated by the process of gardening. Janet Macunovich began gardening for others when she ran out of places to make new gardens at her own home. "I've learned a lot of wonderful things over 25 years of gardening, writing and teaching but the flexibility of the process and its never-ending newness is the best fact of all. I was hooked from the first time I worked in someone else's yard. That's when I saw that what we do to make a garden has to be modified for *every place*. Now 'my' gardens grow in several States and



each one is unique, even those that are full of the same plants. The plants behave differently in each place. All of this makes it a delight and a privilege to work for others and to help readers who ask for advice."



The voice behind the captions of many gardening books and articles. When publishers who ask him to supply photos for books, magazines, catalogs and calendars also began asking him to suggest captions, Steven Nikkila's voice began to develop to match his talented and experienced eye. His visual perspectives have delighted readers and students of gardening for a quarter century. His captioned advice and observations go back about a dozen years. Both aspects are fresh and enduring.

Email questions to Janet or Steven at JMaxGarden@aol.com or call 248-681-7850.

Where to catch Janet and Steven in-person:

Hey, it's Santa's helper Steven, who relays wish lists to Santa from The Village mall of Rochester Hills, Michigan. He also distributes gifts and reads stories to children of all ages at holiday gatherings. He loves this important work as much as gardening. To engage him for your event, call or email 248-681-7850 JMaxGarden@aol.com

Tuesday, January 10, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Janet helps you plan, tend or improve a **Mixed Border**, that garden type which includes all types of flowering plants from bulbs to shrubs. In **Dexter, Michigan**, sponsored by the Dexter Garden Club at the Dexter Senior Center, 7720 Dexter-Ann Arbor Road. Limited seating. Contact jnnwestman@yahoo.com to reserve a seat.

Saturday mornings, January 21 and February 4, 2012, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The 21st annual **Winter Seminar Series** offered by **The Detroit Garden Center** (DGC) at Historic Trinity Church near Detroit's famous Eastern Market. Janet presents *Eight Months of Color* on January 21 and a *Propagation Workshop* February 4. Popular garden educator Cheryl English leads the January 28 session on *Trees, Shrubs and Vines for Your Garden*. You pay a pittance for a great deal of fun and learning, thanks to the generous educational outreach of the volunteers at the DGC. For more information or to reserve a seat for one or all three, contact the DGC at 313-259-6363 or detroitgardenctr@yahoo.com

Saturday, January 28, 2012, Janet & Steven give you design help in **Continuous Color in the Landscape** and share ideas in **50 Favorite Gardens, Before-After** at **A Winter Day in the Garden**. This is a conference sponsored for all gardeners by the Crawford County, Illinois Master Gardeners, in **Robinson, Illinois** at Lincoln Trail College. For registration information, contact hdennis@illinois.edu or 618-546-1549.



See Santa Steven:

At the Rochester Village Mall, Adams Road at University, Rochester Hills, Michigan

Sunday, **Dec. 4**, noon to 5 p.m.
Saturday, **Dec. 10**, 2 - 5 p.m.
Sunday, **Dec. 11**, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, **Dec. 17**, 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Sunday, **Dec. 18**, 2:30 - 6 p.m.
Monday, **Dec. 19**, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Tuesday, **Dec. 20**, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wednesday, **Dec. 21**, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Thursday, **Dec. 22**, 3 - 7 p.m.
Friday, **Dec. 23**, 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you would like to have Santa Steven make an appearance at your holiday get-together, call or email 248-681-7850 or JMaxGarden@aol.com

Opportunities to **Garden by Janet & Steven**:

We're **pruning!**

Wednesday, December 7, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., in **West Bloomfield**

Thursday December 8, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., in **Pleasant Ridge**

Saturday December 10, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., in **Auburn Hills, Michigan**.

Come to **Garden by Janet & Steven** to observe or to pitch in and learn by hands-on. These are free, limited-size workshops. Call or email Janet & Steven to register, and to learn the address.

Provide a telephone number in your email or when you call. Include the meeting date in your subject line of your email, please. JMaxGarden@aol.com, 248-681-7850.

The Garden by Janet & Steven series:

You and we are let-me-see, hands-on people. That's how we learn best. So from time to time we schedule *Garden by Janet & Steven* sessions and list them in this newsletter to afford you that kind of chance to grow. You visit us in a garden to either watch or work with us. Generally, there is no charge and we're in one of two kinds of locations:

1) At the **gardens we tend through our business, Perennial Favorites:** Our clients understand our enthusiasm for teaching. Some open their gardens to small groups who want to see and practice "how to." When work we're scheduled to do may be of interest to you, we invite you in.

2) In the **Detroit Zoo, Adopt-A-Garden** program where we're 22-year veterans. Many people have worked with us there, some for a day and others for years. We have fun, we learn, we accomplish much. You can come help us for a day, and stay on if you like, too.



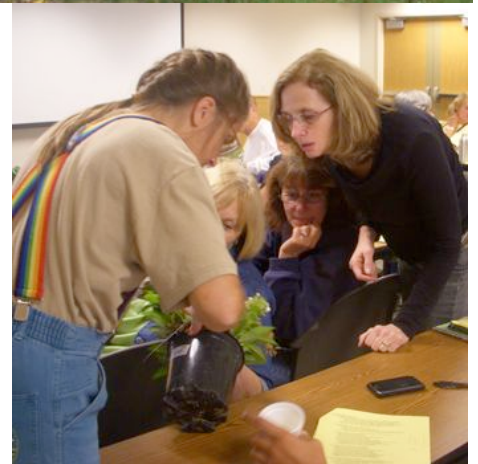
Invite Janet or Steven or their expert friends to your club or community.

We go where we're invited! That's taken us all over the country and then some over the past 20 years. We address many topics, drawing from our list of **100+ talks**. We also continue **to meet groups' needs** and expand our horizons with new material and "hybrids" from our basic 100.

So, we're prepared for just about anything...

- **how-to lessons**,
- **hands-on workshops** or
- a **multi-part class** for your group!

We can also connect you to one or a whole line-up of other experts* who know how to explain how-to. So give us a **call** or **send an email** to make a date, request our list of classes and talks or get a referral. **JMaxGarden@aol.com** or **248-681-7850**. Our calendars fill about a year in advance for spring weekends, and six months ahead for most other times.



*Steven Nikkila and Janet Macunovich have been digging, shooting and teaching how-to for 22 years. They began producing conferences in the '90s and ran a gardening school for 12 years, featuring expert instructors who knew their stuff in a garden as well as knowing how to get their messages across in front of a group. They continue to support that speaker network.

Time to garden your walls...

Steven's decorated many walls with great garden and Nature images. He can help you do the same with photos that capture the garden beauty you love, framed or on canvas to your specifications.

You can own any of Steven's images from *What's Coming Up*.^{*} Or if you have a flower, type of scene or hue in mind you can request your dream. His library includes tens of thousands of plants and natural images, so Steven can assemble a customized photo sampler for you. Email us at JMaxGarden@aol.com for details, to request a sampler or to place an order.



Prices for **Steven's garden art** vary with your wishes in format and size. Examples:

Matted, framed, 11 x 15", \$48

36 x 48' no-fade **cloth tapestry**, \$215

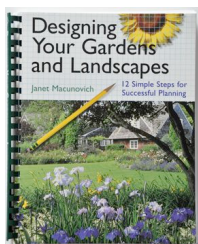
Describe your dream image or color to Steven at JMaxGarden@aol.com. He'll send you a photo sampler and price list.

^{*}Images in our newsletter are depicted in low-resolution to facilitate e-mail transmission.



Steven's originals and art created from them are full resolution, with so much clear detail they are sharp even as wall-size cloth banners.

You asked for our advice "on paper". We wrote and sell these books plus CDs:



Designing Your Gardens and Landscape

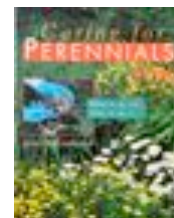
First published in 1990 as *Easy Garden Design*, a 150-page step-by-step recipe that's become a design classic. Janet developed, uses and has trained thousands of others to use this process. People say: "This is exactly the simple, clear approach I need!" This design process is applicable world-wide.

Soft cover, spiral bound. B&W illustrations by Janet. \$19.00

Caring for Perennials

Janet's unique approach to perennial care how-to, the real-time story of one bed from early spring to season's end. The 180 engaging and fact-filled pages make you part of all Janet does and you might ever need to do in each task's appropriate season and sequence. Includes a chart of what to do, when for 70 top perennials. Advice in this book is applicable in all of temperate U.S. and Canada. The perennial chart includes a key to adapt its timing for far southern or northern edges of that range.

Soft cover book. Text by Janet Macunovich. Color illustrations by Steven Nikkila. \$20.00



Asking About Asters CD.

A digital library of six years of Janet's work: weekly columns, newsletters and over 200 extra Q&A letters to individual gardeners. 1,681 questions answered about soil preparation, fertilizing, pruning, design, choosing plants, foiling bugs and much more. No repeated topics. Fully indexed; the entire collection can be searched from one index.

1 CD in jewel case, Windows- and Mac compatible. \$20.00



Potting Up Perennials CD. New for 2011

Practical, beautiful answers about perennials and all kinds of flowers, trees, shrubs, design, pruning and much more is in this collection of 2009 & 2011's *What's Coming Up*. Includes 101 issues with over 1,700 pages, 1,600 articles and 2,400 images. Has a comprehensive index with how-to guide so you can search for any topic or detail in any of the 101 issues. Bonus on this CD: Steven Nikkila's Daydream Screen Saver, 74 of his most vivid works from gardens and nature.

1 CD in jewel case, Windows- and Mac compatible. \$20.00

Janet & Steven's complete digital library New for 2011

Set of two CDs: *Asking About Asters* and *Potting Up Perennials*. \$30.00



Janet and Steven give you: Trees*

A choice collection of Janet and Steven's advice for tree selection, planting and care. Each article made its debut in *Michigan Gardener* magazine and has been on hold since, awaiting completion of its fellows until this comprehensive compilation became possible. Topics include: Selecting trees; fall color; what's happening to ash trees; replacing a big tree; descriptions, lists and photos of great trees; why starting small is a good idea when planting; planting how-to, why's and why not's; staking, watering and fertilizing; mulching; rescuing a tree from the lawn; preventing construction damage; pruning to keep trees and shrubs small; removing suckers; detecting girdling roots; and dealing with maple tar spot and lecanium scale.

10" x 13" magazine, 48 pages. Color illustrations. \$12.00

Janet and Steven give you: Landscape Ideas*

Janet and Steven's favorite articles on landscape design and renovation: Designing with foliage color; covering up after the bulb season; doubling up perennials for 3-season color; shady solutions; using usual plants in unusual ways; designing hypo-allergenic gardens; Murphy's Laws applied to gardens; renovation how-to; fragrant plants and designs; attracting wildlife; rockwork; invasive plants; discovering a site's hidden assets; using herbs in a landscape; and how to cheat to improve a garden quickly. These articles appeared first in *Michigan Gardener* magazine individually between 1999 and 2011. Now they're collected in this set for your design library.

10" x 13" magazine, 48 pp. Color Ill.'s. \$12.00



Janet and Steven give you: Garden Care*

Vital how-to for tending a garden, from Janet and Steven's favorite articles on: bed preparation; soil testing; making a weed-free bed; spring start-up; improving hard-packed soil; fertilizing; watering; cutting back and deadheading; repairing irrigation; drought-tolerant plants; sharpening tools; tweaking in summer; staking; and the art of fall garden clean up. Items in this collection were selected from among Janet and Steven's ten years of *Michigan Gardener* articles. Each made its debut in that magazine, waited for its companion pieces and now they all join your library in this more durable and comprehensive form.

10" x 13" magazine, 48 pages. Color illustrations. \$12.00

Janet and Steven give you: Trees, Landscape Ideas and Garden Care *

Set of three 10" x 13" magazines, 48 pages each. \$30.00



***For a look inside, email JMaxGarden@aol.com with the subject line "Magazine peek."**

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